Identification of Countries for Oil Imports

2841. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to tap additional sources for crude oil import from the
middle east countries;

(b) whether the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, ONGC and lOC have identified the countries, crucial to India's oil supply security; and

(c) if so, whether any concrete measures have been taken; if so, to what extent Government have been able to tap more sources for crude oil import and what are these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE, MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Import of crude oil is finalised considering the specific requirements of Indian refineries and commercial considerations, Government have maintained close political and economic relations with the countries in the Middle-East, a traditional source for procuring crude oil. Identification of new crude oil, their suitability for the Indian refining system and diversification of sources of supply is a continuing process.

ONGC-VL is also seeking exploration acreage to participate in exploration and production activities abroad to tap more sources for crude oil supply.

Netherlands' funding for water supply projects in Gujarat

2842. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Netherlands is funding some water supply projects in rural and urban areas of Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the present status of those projects and the areas covered by them in the State;

(d) whether some other external agencies are also funding the water supply schemes in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT & MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESHWARLU) (a) to (c) The following three water supply projects of Gujarat are being funded by the Netherlands at present:—

(i) Lathi-Liliya Regional Water Supply Scheme in district Amreli costing Rs. 728 lakhs with Dutch assistance of Dutch Guilder (DGL) 9.900 million (grant);

(ii) Sami-Harij Regional Water Supply Scheme in district Mehsana costing Rs. 2481.20 lakhs with Dutch assistance of DGL 33.750 million (grant); and

(iii) Santalpur Regional Water Supply Scheme in district Banaskantha costing Rs.1045.60 lakhs with Dutch assistance of 14.210 million (grant).

Government of Gujarat has reported that at present, out of 195 villages and 4 towns in these three districts, 179 villages and 2 towns are being provided with water supply. All the major works have been completed.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Government Order for House Sites for Backward Classes

2843. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central Government's order to allot house sites to backward classes is in force in Tamil Nadu and other States;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the said order is not being implemented; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) Whether Government would make necessary allocation of funds for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO